Performance of Indian Players in Asian Games

†411. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that performance of Indian players in the Asian Games held at Doha in the year 2006 was not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the steps taken in order to improve the disappointing performance of players in the said games held at Doha; and

(c) the steps taken on the part of Government to ensure that the players of our country perform well in future?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Indian Contingent won 54 medals (10 Gold, 18 Silver and 26 Bronze medals), as against 36 medals won in the last Asian Games, 2002. However, there is potential for further improvements. While the primary responsibility for the development of, and performance in, various sports disciplines rests with the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned, Government in supplementing their efforts by providing financial assistance for holding National/International sports events in India; for training alongwith the required technical support and back-up; participation of Indian sportspersons/teams in international tournaments abroad; coaching in India through Indian and foreign coaches; and support for procuring equipments, etc. as per agreed Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs). The Government is also holding detailed discussions regularly with the NSFs and other stakeholders such as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) with a view to bringing about improvement in the performance in various disciplines.

Government also provides financial assistance to meritorious individual sportspersons for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation in events within the country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and 'National Sports Development Fund'.

Action is also being taken to expand and strengthen the infrastructure and facilities of the SAI, and to significantly increase the number of trainees

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

under different SAI Schemes, which is also expected to lead to availability of more probables for international events, and further improvement in the performance.

Recommendation from Investment Commission

412. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendations from the Investment Commission for organizing and hosting large sporting events in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to accept their suggestions and recommendations for all-round development of infrastructure facilities through sporting events in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Investment Commission, while making suggestions for enhancing growth, has recommended hosting of mega sporting events in India which will focus the country's attention on infrastructure development while also building national pride.

(c) and (d) No specific decision has been taken on this as a matter of policy. However, it has already been decided to hold the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010, for which necessary sports and other infrastructure facilities are being developed. As a part of this the Commonwealth Youth Games will also be held in 2008 in Pune. India has also bid for hosting the Asian Games, 2014 in Delhi, on which a decision will be taken by the Olympic Council of Asia later in the year.